

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 13; add new claims 18-21; and, amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for metering use of computing resources, said method comprising the steps of:

recording, as process accounting information, the use of computing resources for a plurality of processes that relate to service requests made by users;

recording service request information for the service requests made by the users;

correlating the recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; ~~and~~

providing resource usage information for each of the service requests based upon the correlated recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; and

allocating resource usage to service requests that simultaneously use a computing resource between overlapping requests.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of correlating request logging information and usage logging information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the plurality of processes include processes dynamically spawned by processes for which process accounting information is recorded.
5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of maintaining an active request list of the service requests made by the users.
6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein separate active lists are maintained for each of the processes.
7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of calculating a relative weight of each of the service requests.
8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 7, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising the step of allocating the resource usage in proportion to calculated relative weights to the service requests.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system for metering the use of computer resources comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium, said computer system comprising:

means for recording, as process accounting information, the use of computing resources for a plurality of processes that relate to service requests made by users;

means for recording service request information for the service requests made by the users;

means for correlating the recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; ~~and~~

means for providing resource usage information for each of the service requests based upon the correlated recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; and

means for allocating resource usage to service requests that simultaneously use a computing resource between overlapping requests.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for metering the use of computer resources comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

recording, as process accounting information, the use of computing resources for a plurality of processes that relate to service requests made by users;

recording service request information for the service requests made by the users;

correlating the recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; ~~and~~

providing resource usage information for each of the service requests based upon the correlated recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; and

allocating resource usage to service requests that simultaneously use a computing resource between overlapping requests.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for metering the use of computing resources comprising:

at least one computer server operable for executing service requests made by users;

a monitoring agent associated with the computer server and operable for being able to access process accounting information for processes executing the service requests stored in operating system logs of the computer server;

a request logging module operable for maintaining records of the service requests;

a usage logging module operable for maintaining records of the process accounting information obtained from the monitoring agent; and

a resource usage database operable for maintaining records of resource usage information relating to service requests by correlating the records of the request logging module and the records of the usage logging module; and

a correlator operable for allocating resource usage to service requests that simultaneously use a computing resource between overlapping requests.

12. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 11, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising a query module for accessing the records of resource usage information stored in the resource usage database in response to queries.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 11, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising means for correlating request logging information and usage logging information.

15. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 11, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising means for maintaining an active request list of the service requests made by the users.

16. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 11, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising means for calculating a relative weight of each of the service requests.

17. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 16, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising means for allocating the resource usage in proportion to calculated relative weights to the service requests.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein said allocating of said resource usage comprises at least one of evenly splitting said overlapping usage between said two different service requests, and splitting said overlapping usage in a weighted manner based upon respective durations of said two different service requests.

19. (New) The computer system according to claim 9, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein said allocating of said overlapping usage comprises at least one of evenly splitting said overlapping usage between said two different service requests, and splitting said overlapping usage in a weighted manner based upon respective durations of said two different service requests.

20. (New) The computer program product according to claim 10, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein said allocating of said overlapping usage comprises at least one of evenly splitting said overlapping usage between said two different service requests, and splitting said overlapping usage in a weighted manner based upon respective durations of said two different service requests.

21. (New) The system according to claim 11, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein said allocating of said overlapping usage comprises at least one of evenly splitting said overlapping usage between said two different service requests, and splitting said overlapping usage in a weighted manner based upon respective durations of said two different service requests.